



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

23 NOVEMBER 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Fresno – Man sentenced for Manufacturing and Distributing Firearms to Nuestra Familia Members

(U) Jose Moreno, 26, of Hanford, was sentenced to three-years-and-one-month in prison for illegally distributing a machine gun. On 22 May 2019, Moreno sold a machine gun to an individual in Hanford. Shortly after the meeting, the individual departed in his car, and law enforcement officers conducted a traffic stop. During a search of the vehicle, officers found a fully automatic handgun with two 16-round magazines. Moreno's involvement in this machine gun sale and several others was uncovered during a months-long wiretap investigation into the Nuestra Familia Prison Gang operating in Kings and Tulare Counties. The investigation revealed that Moreno was manufacturing and selling machine guns to street gang members. Moreno pleaded guilty on 30 August 2021.

SOURCE: 22 November 2021, [Sierra Sun Times](#)

(U) San Francisco – California Promoter Hit with Fraud Charges for Digital Currency Scams

(U) Authorities in the United States have filed charges against Ryan Ginster, the alleged orchestrator of five digital currency scams that net him \$5 million. According to the Department of Justice, the 34-year-old engaged in scams from February 2018 to early 2021. At the time, Ginster allegedly ran five websites, all geared towards luring investors with promises of grandeur. One of these sites was Social Profimatic, which promised incredible returns of at least 8% daily with little or no risk for investors. Investors could only buy in through digital currencies. This scam managed to raise as much as \$844,000 from an undisclosed number of investors. Ginster shut down the site without warning just 38 days after launch.

SOURCE: 23 November 2021, [CoinGeek](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – 10,000 National Guard and Texas State Troopers Deployed to Border

(U) McAllen – Texas Governor Greg Abbott has deployed 10,000 state troopers and National Guard units to the Texas border as part of "Operation Lone Star." Governor Abbott indicated that Operation Lone Star would supplement border security and thwart human traffickers and drug cartels. It utilizes air, ground, and marine tactical border security units. The troop buildup comes as a caravan of migrants is heading north to the United States from southern Mexico. Last week, National Guard troops and state troopers conducted several maneuvers in preparation for a possible confrontation with migrants or large crowds.

SOURCE: 22 November 2021, [KXAN](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – ISIS-Khorasan Leaders Blacklisted as Terrorist Organization's Threat Grows

(U) Washington DC – The Biden administration blacklisted Ismatullah Khlozai, a critical financial facilitator for the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) Afghanistan branch as it targets the terrorist organization as its threat to the US grows. The Treasury accused Khlozai of being an international financial facilitator for ISIS-Khorasan Province, or ISIS-K. To coincide with the Treasury's move, the State

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Department on Monday also blacklisted three ISIS-K leaders as Specially Designated Global Terrorists, prohibiting US persons from doing business with them and blocking all of their US-based assets and interests in property.

SOURCE: 23 November 2021, [Gephardt Daily](#)

(U) Arizona – GoDaddy Data Breach Exposes 1.2 Million User accounts

(U) Tempe – Web hosting and domain seller giant GoDaddy has reported a data breach that exposed 1.2 million customers' data to hackers. GoDaddy's chief information security officer indicated the company detected unauthorized access to its systems where it hosts and manages its customers' WordPress servers. WordPress is the world's popular content management system "CMS" used by 70% of the internet publishers. The unauthorized person used a compromised password to access GoDaddy's systems around 6 September. GoDaddy discovered the breach last week on 17 November and said this exposure could put users at greater risk of phishing attacks.

SOURCE: 23 November 2021, [Gephardt Daily](#)

(U) New York – Man Sentenced to Prison for threatening to Hurt Members of Congress

(U) New York City – Officials sentenced Brendan Hunt, who allegedly threatened the lives of Congress members, to 19-months in prison after being found guilty of one count of threatening to assault or murder US officials. In January, prosecutors argued that Hunt had posted videos of himself at his Queens home discussing the 6 January riot at the US Capitol, threatening to kill senators and encouraging others to go back to the Capitol on Inauguration Day and take their guns. Hunt took the stand in his defense during the trial, telling the court that he did not mean what he said in videos and messaging apps about killing elected officials. Hunt testified that he did not think his rhetoric about killing elected officials could bear real penal consequences because he had seen the prevalence of "kill Trump" rhetoric, especially from celebrities.

SOURCE: 22 November 2021, [CNN](#)

(U) Texas – Education Software Company Exposed Personal Data of 1.2 Million Students

(U) Austin – SmarterSelect, a US-based company that provides software for managing the application process for scholarships, exposed the personal data of thousands of applicants because of a misconfigured Google Cloud Storage bucket. The data spill, discovered by cybersecurity company UpGuard, contained 1.5-terabytes of data collected by several programs that offer financial support to students. The data included academic transcripts, resumes, and invoices for approximately 1.2 million applications to funding programs, dated from November 2020 to 21 September 2021. Some exposed data contain sensitive information such as academic performance, photos, physical and sexual abuse details, and social security numbers. It is currently unknown whether malicious actors accessed the data while it was exposed.

SOURCE: 23 November 2021, [TechCrunch](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Australia – Police Seize Huge Load of Meth Sent from Canada Hidden in a Bakery Mixer

(U) Melbourne – Australian police arrested three men after collecting a large load of methamphetamine hidden inside baking equipment shipped from Toronto. Upon discovering the hidden methamphetamine, Canadian Police arranged for an international controlled delivery operation. The Canadian police notified their Australian counterparts of the shipment and allowed the baking equipment to continue to Melbourne after replacing the methamphetamine. Australian police then arrested three men aged 29, 33, and 37 after picking up the equipment.

SOURCE: 23 November 2021, [The National Post](#)

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(U) Uganda – Seven Suspects Killed During Investigation of Kampala Blasts

(U) Kampala – Security services killed seven suspects and detained 106 people during operations linked to three suicide bombings in Kampala's capital last week. The Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) allied with an anti-Uganda rebel group, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), claimed responsibility for the 16 November attack, which killed seven people, including the three bombers, and injured dozens more. In the attack, a suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance of a police station in the center of Kampala. Three minutes later, two other suicide bombers exploded along a road that led to the parliament. Police did not provide details on how the seven suspects were killed.

SOURCE: 23 November 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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